

REPORT ON INFORMATION COLLECTED CONCERNING APPLICANT

Under section 60835 of title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, the Bureau of State Audits is responsible for collecting information concerning applicants for the Citizens Redistricting Commission that is needed by the Applicant Review Panel to perform its responsibilities. This is a report by Bureau staff in compliance with that responsibility.

Name of Applicant: Gregory Kent Freeland.

Information: Research conducted by Bureau staff revealed that the New Mexico Democratic Party reported receiving a \$500 contribution from Applicant on September 5, 2008, but Applicant did not disclose this contribution in the "Financial Contributions" section of his supplemental application. When asked about this contribution by staff, Applicant stated that in December 2008 he attended the Democratic National Convention in Denver and needed a place to stay. When searching for lodging, "the organizers" offered to rent a condominium to him for \$500 per week. Applicant and his "buddy – traveling partner" rented this condominium. Applicant stated that he had no idea the \$500 was reported as a contribution because it was a fee that he paid for lodging.

Bureau research revealed that the Pueblo Action Fund reported Applicant and his spouse, Sharon Hoshida, were 10th Anniversary Sponsors who made a contribution, but the amount of the contribution was not disclosed. In response to questioning about the contribution by staff, Applicant responded that it was a joint monetary contribution from Applicant and his spouse, and that he believed the amount of the contribution was \$250. The Pueblo Action Fund, according to its website, is a grassroots economic and environmental justice organization that is building the power and leadership of low-income residents throughout Santa Barbara County.

Staff research also revealed that Applicant contributed between \$1 and \$499 to the Central Coast Alliance United for A Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) in 2008. When asked by staff about the nature and amount of this contribution, Applicant stated he believed the contribution was in the amount of \$100.

Staff also found that according to the 2005 annual report of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Applicant contributed between \$500 and \$999 to that organization in 2003.

Staff learned that Applicant is or has been involved with several organizations and causes. He is currently the president of the Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE). CAUSE's mission, according to its website, is to realize social, economic, and environmental justice for California's central coast region through policy research, leadership development, organizing, and advocacy. He was also involved with the Redistricting California Alliance, an alliance organized by Common Cause and funded by the Irvine Foundation. Applicant also studied the effects of Ventura County's redistricting in 2001.

Staff discovered that Applicant's spouse is involved with a number of activities and groups. She is involved with CAUSE and the Pueblo Action Fund along with Applicant, and she endorsed a candidate for mayor of Santa Barbara. Additionally, she endorsed a candidate for Goleta City Council. She volunteered for Das Williams' election campaign for State Assembly and is a board member of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee, a non-partisan political action committee that promotes a feminist agenda. According to Democratic Assemblymember Nava's website, which features Applicant's spouse as "making a difference", she has "worked on countless political campaigns in Santa Barbara since walking precincts for Robert Kennedy in 1968." She is also a signer of an open letter in support of the Physician's for a National Health Program.

Bureau staff contacted Christina Gonzalez, the author of one of the Applicant's letters of recommendation to confirm the information provided in the letter and receive any additional information that may be relevant. Ms. Gonzalez confirmed that she had worked with Applicant at CAUSE, and she has worked with him professionally and as a volunteer for several organizations. She spoke very highly of Applicant's abilities as a mediator and a facilitator.

Recommendation: None.

Name and title of person submitting response: Steven Benito Russo, Chief of Investigations

Report Date: September 13, 2010